

## How to file comments under the 218 Objections Rule

### Comment Process

Only individuals or entities who submit timely and specific written comments regarding a proposed project or activity during any designated opportunity for public comment may file an objection (36 CFR 218.5).

Specific written comments are defined by 36 CFR 218.2. This section says “Written comments are those submitted to the responsible official or designee during a designated opportunity for public participation (36 CFR 218.5(a)) provided for a proposed project. Written comments can include submission of transcriptions or other notes for oral statements or presentation. For the purposes of this rule, specific written comments should be within the scope of the proposed actions, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider.”

### Filing a comment (36 CFR 218.25)

It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received in a timely manner. For emailed comments, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgment from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgment of the receipt of the comments, it is the sender’s responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means (36 CFR 218.25 (4)(iii)).

To be eligible to submit an objection, individuals and entities must have provided the following during any designated comment period (see 36 CFR 218.25 (a)(3)):

- Name and postal address (Email address in addition is recommended but not required). Title of the proposed project or activity.
- Specific written comments as defined in 36 CFR 218.2 regarding the proposed project or activity, along with supporting reasons.
- Signature or other verification of identity upon request and identification of the individual or entity who authored the comment(s). Note, for comments listing multiple entities or multiple individuals, a signature or other means of verification must be provided for the individual authorized to represent each entity and for each individual in the case of multiple names. A scanned signature or other means of verifying the identity of the individual or entity representative may be used for electronically submitted comments.

In order for your comments to be considered, they must be submitted in one of the following ways:

#### Written comments

- Mail: Michelle Paduani, District Ranger, Attn: Houston South Vegetation Management and Restoration Project, 811 Constitution Avenue, Bedford, IN 47421.
- FAX: 812-279-3426, Attn: Houston South Vegetation Management and Restoration Project
- Email: [comments-eastern-hoosier@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-eastern-hoosier@fs.fed.us)

Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), Word (.doc or .docx) or Portable Document Format (.pdf). Please include the subject header “Houston South Vegetation Management and Restoration Project” in your email.

Hand delivered comments

- Written comments can be hand delivered to the Forest Supervisor’s Office at 811 Constitution Avenue, Bedford, IN 47421 during normal business hours, Monday to Friday, excluding holidays (8:00 am – 4:30 pm).

Comments received, including name and address of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public review.